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C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 16137

TERREP

DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR ARA/AND AND CA/OCS/EMR
PLEASE ALSO PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S
TASK FORCE ON TERRORISM AND NSC FOR JACKIE TILLMAN

E.O. 12356: DECL: 12/24/95
TAGS: PTER, ASEC, CASC, CO
SUBJECT: TERRORISM IN COLOMBIA: ONCE AGAIN, USG POLICY
VS. AMERICAN CORPORATE BEHAVIOR

REFS: (A) BOGOTA 16051 (B) BOGOTA 15630
(C) BOGOTA 13374

1. CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT.
2. WE HAVE MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT THE NEGOTIATED RELEASE OF KIDNAPPED AMERICAN PETROLEUM ENGINEER MICHAEL STEWART (REF. A). A U.S. CITIZEN IS ALIVE AND APPARENTLY WELL; THAT IS GOOD. BUT THE MANNER IN WHICH HIS EMPLOYERS AND THEIR INSURANCE COMPANY ALLIES HANDLED THIS CASE, WE BELIEVE, WILL NOT ONLY CONTRIBUTE DIRECTLY TO FURTHER HOSTAGE TAKING OF AMERICAN CITIZENS HERE BUT -- BECAUSE OF THE WEAPONRY AND OTHER RESOURCES THE US\$ 1.2 MILLION RANSOM COULD BUY -- ENDANGERS THE OFFICIAL U.S. PRESENCE AS WELL. THE FACT THAT TWO MORE U.S. CITIZEN CORPORATE EXECUTIVES HAVE NOW BEEN TAKEN BY THE EPL (REF.B) AND THAT THIS CASE, TOO, IS BEING HANDLED BY CONTROL RISKS, LTD. UNDERSCORES THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS PROBLEM FOR US. IT IS NO COINCIDENCE THAT CONTROL RISKS IS RELIABLY REPORTED TO BE ESTABLISHING A BRANCH OFFICE IN BOGOTA.
3. WE BELIEVE THAT THE MODUS OPERANDI BEING PURSUED BY SOME AMERICAN CORPORATIONS IN COLOMBIA (NOW INCLUDING BECHTEL AND FLUOR IN ADDITION TO TENNECO) IS NOT ONLY IN CONFLICT WITH USG ANTI-TERRORISM THEORY; IT COULD ACCURATELY BE DESCRIBED AS A PRO-TERRORISM AND ANTI-LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICY. THE "BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY" WHICH LLOYDS OF LONDON AND ITS AFFILIATE CONTROL RISKS HAVE RECOGNIZED IN COLOMBIA REPRESENTS TO US AN INCREASING TERRORIST THREAT. THE TERRORISTS' AWARENESS OF RANSOM INSURANCE -- AND OF A "DEDUCTIBLE" TOWARD WHICH THE LIKES OF CONTROL RISKS IN FACT NEGOTIATE -- IS AN INVITATION TO THE FURTHER

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DETERIORATION OF THE ALREADY DANGEROUS SITUATION IN
WHICH COLOMBIA FINDS ITSELF.

4. THE EMBASSY RAISED THESE AND RELATED POLICY, LEGAL
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS ISSUES IN OCTOBER (REF. C). WE
BELIEVE THAT A RE-APPRAISAL OF USG POLICY IN THIS AREA,
AT LEAST AS IT AFFECTS COLOMBIA, IS NOW MORE CRITICAL
THAN EVER.

SKOL
END OF MESSAGE

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